

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 EUR-12 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6224

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 4381

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LE, KU

SUBJ: KUWAIT FOREIGN MINISTER'S VIEWS ON PROSPECTS FOR
LEBANESE SOLUTION AND ARAB SUMMIT

1. I MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SABAH AL-AHMAD SEPTEMBER 13 TO
DELIVER SECRETARY'S LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER ON IFAD (SEPTTEL) AND
TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO SEEK HIS VIEWS ON PROSPECTS OF ARAB LEAGUE'S
EFFORTS TO FIND SOLUTION TO LEBANESE CRISIS. I NOTED THAT MFA
UNDERSECRETARY RASHID AL-RASHID HAD DEPARTED FOR DAMASCUS TO JOIN
AL MISSION INCLUDING SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTER PRINCE SAUD, TUNISIAN
FOREIGN MINISTER CHATTI, AND AL SPECIAL ENVOY HASSAN EL-KHOLY
AND ASKED WHAT WAS EXPECTED OF THEM.

2. FONMIN FIRST SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN UNABLE TO JOIN THIS GROUP
BECAUSE OF HIS NEED TO CONCENTRATE ON INTERNAL MATTERS (SEE SEPTTEL)
AND HAD DECIDED TO SEND RASHID. HE INDICATED AL HAD PASSED
RESOLUTION TO SEND MISSION PREPARATORY TO SUMMIT--IN FACT, TO TRY
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TO PUT TOGETHER ELEMENTS OF A POSSIBLE LEBANESE SOLUTION--AND

SAUDI ARABIA AND KUWAIT HAD BEEN INCLUDED BECAUSE OF THEIR ACTIVE EFFORTS IN THIS CONNECTION IN THE PAST. HE THOUGHT PRINCE SAUD WOULD LEAVE TODAY (SEPTEMBER 13) TO JOIN GROUP IN DAMASCUS.

3. I OBSERVED THAT PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER KHALID AL-HASSAN HAD ACCOMPANIED RASHID TO DAMASCUS. SABAH AL-AHMAD CONFIRMED THIS, SAYING THAT HE HAD ASKED HASSAN TO GO. HE SAID THAT GOK HAD WORKED VERY CLOSELY WITH PALESTINIANS IN EFFORTS TO FIND SOLUTION TO LEBANESE PROBLEM, AND TO DIFFICULTIES IN WHICH THEY FOUND THEMSELVES. HE MAINTAINED THAT PALESTINIANS WERE VERY COOPERATIVE. WHILE THEY WERE NATURALLY CONCERNED WITH THEIR OWN INTERESTS, THEY WERE ALSO AWARE OF WEAKNESS OF THEIR POSITION AND WERE NOW PREPARED TO AGREE TO REASONABLE COMPROMISE.

4. FONMIN SAID SOLUTION IN LEBANON NEEDED TO BE FOUND BEFORE SEPTEMBER 23, DATE OF INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT SARKIS. HE WAS HOPEFUL THAT IT WOULD BE FOUND AND THOUGHT THAT 80 PERCENT OF SOLUTION HAD ALREADY BEEN WORKED OUT. WHEN I ASKED WHETHER THIS WOULD INVOLVE ESTABLISHMENT OF FEDERATED STATE, SABAH AL-AHMAD EMPHATICALLY STATED THAT LEBANON WAS AND HAS TO REMAIN ONE COUNTRY. I NOTED THAT US POSITION ALSO SUPPORTED INTEGRITY OF LEBANON.

5. FONMIN CONFIRMED THAT AL HAD DECIDED TO HOLD SUMMIT MEETING DURING THIRD WEEK OF OCTOBER AND THAT FONMIN MEETING WOULD PRECEDE IT. HE SAID HIS HIGHNESS (THE AMIR) WOULD ATTEND FOR KUWAIT. HOWEVER, HE INDICATED THAT SUMMIT MEETING WOULD ONLY BE HELD IF OUTLINES OF SOLUTION WERE FOUND AND AGREED UPON BEFOREHAND. OTHERWISE, THERE WOULD BE NO SUCH MEETING. I INQUIRED WHETHER, IN SUCH CASE, A MINI-SUMMIT, WHICH HAD BEEN EARLIER RUMORED, WOULD BE HELD INSTEAD. SABAH AL-AHMAD COMMENTED IN WRY AMUSEMENT THAT THIS HAD BEEN A KUWAITI IDEA WHICH HE HIMSELF HAD COOKED UP IN COLOMBO WITH EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMY AND SAUDI ENVOY. ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF THIS PLAN WAS SECRECY. FAHMY HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT NEWS OF IT WOULD APPEAR VERY SHORTLY IN KUWAITI PRESS. IN FACT, OF COURSE, PRESIDENT SADAT HAD SPILLED WHOLE IDEA TO THE PRESS WHEN IN TAIF ON HIS WAY BACK FROM COLOMBO. WHEN SABAH AL-AHMAD TOOK FAHMY TO TASK ON THIS, LATTER ASKED WHETHER HE WAS EXPECTED TO ZIP UP PRESIDENT'S LIP*
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6. COMMENT: SABAH AL-AHMAD SEEMED SOMEWHAT SANGUINE FOR RE PROSPECTS FOR FINDING A LEBANESE SOLUTION AND AN EVENTUAL SUMMIT MEETING, ALTHOUGH HE IS GENERALLY INCLINED TO HAVE A SOMEWHAT OPTIMISTIC OUTLOOK. HIS EMPHASIS ON PALESTINIAN WILLINGNESS TO COMPROMISE IS ENCOURAGING ALTHOUGH VIEWS OF KHALID AL-HASSAN IN KUWAIT ARE LIKELY TO BE SOMEWHAT INSULATED FROM INTERNAL CONFLICT WITHIN PLO IN BEIRUT. FONMIN EXPRESSED

HIMSELF QUITE CLEARLY ON PROBABILITY SUMMIT WOULD NOT TAKE
PLACE IF ELEMENTS OF A SOLUTION WERE NOT FOUND BEFOREHAND, SINCE
PRESUMABLY TOP ARAB LEADERS WOULD NOT WANT TO BE INVOLVED IN A
MEETING THAT ENDED A FAILURE.
MAESTRONE

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